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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/660,579	09/12/2003	Yoshinori Endo	117143	5280

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER	
LETT, THOMAS J	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/660,579	ENDO, YOSHINORI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thomas J. Lett	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *10 September 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-13* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-13* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *10 September 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *10/1/03,8/22/05,6/14/06*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a first office action in response to application 10/660,559 filed on 12 September 2003 in which claims 1-13 are presented for examination.

Priority

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy of Japanese patent application number 2002-266814, filed on 12 September 2002, has been received and made of record.

Title

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-5 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Endoh (USPN 6,707,566 B1).

Regarding claim 1, Endoh discloses an electronic apparatus (any of printers 102 to 107, col. 3, lines 10-11) operable in various modes and having a unique identification data (printer identifier (ID), col. 3, lines 31-32), comprising:

receiving means (network interface 307, col. 4, lines 36-38 receives multicast printing information, col. 1, lines 48-52) for receiving, from an external device (data processing apparatus 101, col. 3, lines 9-10) input information including both apparatus information (printer address information, col. 4, line 60) and operation information (printing conditions, col. 4, lines 60-61) provided in association with the apparatus information, the operation information being used for setting an operation of an apparatus identified by the apparatus information;

discriminating means (CPU 301, col. 4, lines 6-8) for discriminating relevant operation information based on relevant apparatus information indicating the unique identification data, the relevant apparatus information and the relevant operation information being in association with each other and received at the receiving means as the input information (at step S906 to determine the settings that correspond to specified printers, see at least col. 6, lines 63-67); and

setting means (CPU 301, col. 4, lines 6-8) for setting an operation to be performed in a selected mode based on the relevant operation information discriminated by the discriminating means (step S910, set print instruction, see Figure 9).

Regarding claim 2, Endoh discloses an electronic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the input information includes a plurality of pieces of apparatus information (in step S504, a plurality of IDs are added to a data packet) and a plurality of pieces of operation information in association with respective ones of the plurality of pieces of apparatus information individually (printing conditions, col. 4, lines 60-61 that correspond to certain network printers), and wherein the discriminating means discriminates relevant apparatus information (at step S906 to determine the settings that correspond to specified printers, see at least col. 6, lines 63-

67) that indicates the unique identification data from among the plurality of pieces of apparatus information, and discriminates relevant operation information corresponding to the relevant apparatus information.

Regarding claim 3, Endoh discloses an electronic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the input information further includes independent operation information, the discriminating means judges that the independent operation information being relevant in setting an operation to be performed in a selected mode (printing conditions reads on different modes, col. 4, lines 60-61 that correspond to certain network printers).

Regarding claim 4, Endoh discloses an electronic apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising storing means (work area 604 stores printer identification, col. 5, lines 64-65) for storing the unique identification data, wherein the discriminating means (CPU 301) compares the apparatus information included in the input information with the unique identification data stored in the storing means, and judges that the operation information in association with the model information is relevant when the apparatus information included in the input information matches the unique identification data stored in the storing means (at step S906 to determine the settings that correspond to specified printers, see at least col. 6, lines 63-67).

Regarding claim 5, Endoh discloses an electronic apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising an interface (a network interface 307, col. 4, lines 36-38 receives multicast printing information, col. 1, lines 48-52) for connecting to the external device, the interface being assigned with a unique ID number, the unique ID number being used as the unique identification data, wherein the storing means stores the unique ID number (work area 604 stores printer identification, col. 5, lines 64-65);

the external device transmits input information including an ID number (printer address information, col. 4, line 60) and operation information (printing conditions, col. 4, lines 60-61) in association with the ID number;

discriminating means (CPU 301, col. 4, lines 6-8) compares the ID number included in the input information with the unique ID number stored in the storing means and judges that the operation information provided in association with the ID number is relevant in setting an operation to be performed in a selected mode when the ID number included in the input information matches the unique ID number stored in the storing means (at step S906 to determine the settings that correspond to specified printers, see at least col. 6, lines 63-67).

Regarding claim 12, Endoh discloses a network printer system comprising:

a host computer (data processing apparatus 101, col. 3, lines 9-10); and

at least two printers (any of printers 102 to 107, col. 3, lines 10-11) each connected to the host computer through a network (see figure 1 wherein printers 102 to 107 are connected to PC101 via network 108) and having its own unique identification data (printer identification), the host computer outputting (multicast printing information, col. 1, lines 48-52) to the at least two printers information including both printer information and operation information provided in association with the printer information, each of the at least two printers judging if the printer information indicates its own unique identification data and setting an operation in accordance with the operation information provided in association with the printer information when the printer information indicates its own unique identification data (at step S906 to determine the settings that correspond to specified printers, see at least col. 6, lines 63-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 6-11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Endoh (USPN 6,707,566 B1) in view of Hren (USPN 7,099,026 B1).

Regarding claim 6, Endoh does not disclose that the input information further includes a password; the discriminating means judges whether or not the password is appropriately entered; and the setting means sets an operation to be performed in a selected mode based on the relevant operation information if the discriminating means judges that the password is appropriately entered.

Hren teaches a passcode system which has a pass code generation program 16 that enables a user to be able to activate certain features of a printer device once a pass code is successfully generated and verified (col, 6, lines 46-55) by a pass code validation module 32. Endoh and Hren are analogous art because they are from the similar problem solving area of printer feature enablement. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the feature of Hren to Endoh in order to obtain an input password that is generated and allows a print operation to be performed once said pass code is verified/appropriate. The motivation for doing so would be to authorize certain printer features.

Regarding claim 7, Endoh does not disclose a password storing means for storing a unique password, wherein the discriminating means compares the password included in the input information with the unique password stored in the password storing means and judges that the password included in the input information is inputted appropriately when the password

included in the input information matches the unique password stored in the password storing means.

Hren teaches a passcode system which enables a user to be able to activate certain features of a printer device once a pass code is successfully generated and verified (col, 6, lines 46-55) by a pass code validation module 32 (reads on discriminating means) of a stored printer pass code 33. Endoh and Hren are analogous art because they are from the similar problem solving area of printer feature enablement. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the feature of Hren to Endoh in order to obtain an input password that is generated and allows a print operation to be performed once said pass code is verified/appropriate. The motivation for doing so would be to authorize certain printer features.

Regarding claim 8, Endoh does not disclose a changing means for changing the unique password to a new unique password based on a command, the command being further included in the input information and changing the unique password stored in the password storing means, wherein the discriminating means discriminates the new unique password.

Hren teaches a passcode generation program 16 for generating unique pass codes for print devices which enables a user to be able to activate certain features of a printer device once a pass code is successfully generated and verified (col, 6, lines 46-55) by a pass code validation module 32 (reads on discriminating means) of a stored printer pass code 33. Endoh and Hren are analogous art because they are from the similar problem solving area of printer feature enablement. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the feature of Hren to Endoh in order to obtain an input password that is generated and allows a print operation to be performed once said pass code is verified/appropriate. The motivation for doing so would be to authorize certain printer features.

Regarding claim 9, Endoh does not disclose a nonvolatile memory and a volatile memory, wherein the unique password is stored in the nonvolatile memory and the new unique password is stored in the volatile memory.

Hren teaches a passcode generation program 16 for generating unique pass codes for print devices which enables a user to be able to activate certain features of a printer device once a pass code is successfully generated and verified (col, 6, lines 46-55) by a pass code validation module 32 (reads on discriminating means) of a stored printer pass code 33. Examiner notes that it is well-known in the art to store certain data in non-volatile and/or volatile memory depending on the criticality of the data and the power use of the devices. Endoh and Hren are analogous art because they are from the similar problem solving area of printer feature enablement. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the feature of Hren to Endoh in order to obtain an input password that is generated and allows a print operation to be performed once said pass code is verified/appropriate. The motivation for doing so would be to authorize certain printer features.

Regarding claim 10, Endoh does not disclose that the changing means provides the new unique password based on the unique password and the ID number assigned to the interface.

Hren teaches a passcode generation program 16 for generating unique pass codes for print devices which enables a user to be able to activate certain features of a printer device once a pass code is successfully generated and verified (col, 6, lines 46-55) by a pass code validation module 32 (reads on discriminating means) of a stored printer pass code 33. The pass code program has to assign the pass code based on the id of the device so that the pass code correctly corresponds to the proper printing device. Endoh and Hren are analogous art because they are from the similar problem solving area of printer feature enablement. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add

the feature of Hren to Endoh in order to obtain an input password that is generated and allows a print operation to be performed once said pass code is verified/appropriate. The motivation for doing so would be to authorize certain printer features.

Regarding claim 11, Endoh does not disclose that the discriminating means directly writes to the nonvolatile memory an operation based on the operation information discriminated using the password.

Hren teaches a passcode generation program 16 for generating unique pass codes for print devices which enables a user to be able to activate certain features of a printer device once a pass code is successfully generated and verified (col, 6, lines 46-55) by a pass code validation module 32 (reads on discriminating means) of a stored printer pass code 33. Examiner notes that it is well-known in the art to store certain data in non-volatile and/or volatile memory depending on the criticality of the data and the power use of the devices. Endoh and Hren are analogous art because they are from the similar problem solving area of printer feature enablement. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the feature of Hren to Endoh in order to obtain an input password that is generated and allows a print operation to be performed once said pass code is verified/appropriate. The motivation for doing so would be to authorize certain printer features.

Regarding claim 13, Endoh does not disclose that the information further includes a password, each of the at least two printers having its own password, judging whether or not the password included in the information is in coincidence with the its own password, and setting the operation in accordance with the operation information provided in association with the printer information when the printer information indicates its own unique identification data and the password included in the information is judged to be in coincidence with the its own password.

Hren teaches a passcode system which enables a user to be able to activate certain features of a printer device once a pass code is successfully generated and verified (col, 6, lines 46-55) by a pass code validation module 32 (reads on discriminating means) of a stored printer pass code 33. Endoh and Hren are analogous art because they are from the similar problem solving area of printer feature enablement. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the feature of Hren to Endoh in order to obtain an input password that is generated and allows a print operation to be performed once said pass code is verified/appropriate. The motivation for doing so would be to authorize certain printer features.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J. Lett whose telephone number is (571) 272-7464. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thomas Lett
AU 2625

KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER